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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Hungarian Troops in Zalaegerszeg-Tapolca-Nagykanizsa Area

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 6 to 20 December 1949

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 March 1950

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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The following information on Hungarian troops in the Zalaegerszeg (Y 4/V 10) -Tapolca (Y 4/D 35) -Nagykanizsa (Y 4/A 26) area was obtained (1):

## 1. Zalaegerszeg.

## a. Border guard battalion:

Component units of the battalion were quartered in the Olai Street Barracks and the New Barracks.

the battalion is the 32d Border Guard Bn. It had been brought up to full strength in late November 1949.

(1) The unit with the following elements, was seen leaving for marching exercises on 8 and 13 December 1949:

(a) Engineer platoon: One officer and 44 EM, equipped with saws, axes, spades and armed with Soviet submachine guns with drum magazines.

(b) Rifle platoons: Of 44 men each, led by officers or NCOs. Three mounted officers (one a major) were with the platoons. The troops were equipped with Hungarian steel helmets, long carbines with bayonets, field bags and infantry spades. The squads were equipped with light machine guns; only a few soldiers carried a Soviet submachine gun with drum magazine. EM wore short boots and new uniforms without epaulets. Officers wore visor-type caps.

(c) Mortar sections: Of six EM and one mule handler each. Round base plates and 120-mm mortar barrels were loaded on small carts.

(d) Heavy machine gun sections: Of six EM and one mule handler each. Heavy machine guns of Soviet make, with rounded-off shields, were loaded on small carts.

several soldiers of the battalion would probably soon move to the Yugoslav border. (2)

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b. Artillery and AAA units :

One artillery piece and 14 horse-drawn vehicles loaded with hay were seen in the yard of the New Barracks. [redacted]

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[redacted] one field artillery battery and one AAA battery were quartered in the New Barracks. Two artillery batteries were transferred from the barracks to an unknown destination in late November 1949. The AAA battery had previously been emplaced north of Zalaegerszeg. [redacted] in the "Ne Keresd" Forest, the AA gun emplacement is still guarded and that ammunition was left behind. (3)

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c. 9th Recruiting Office :

[redacted] the 9th Recruiting Office has been at 1 Ady Endre Street since October 1949. It was under the Pecs (Y 5/B 22) Military District Headquarters.

(1) The last inductions were in November 1949. Some of the inducted men went to Tapolca and about 300 to Baja (Y 6/S 27). Altogether about 700 had volunteered for enlistment. Nonparty members were rejected and told to wait for an induction in April 1950.

d. A Soviet major, closely in touch with Hungarian officers and accompanying the Hungarian units on their marching exercises, resided at 16 Zarda Street.

## 2. Tapolca :

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[redacted]

An air force unit, a signal unit and a small SP artillery unit were in a camp near the airfield. CO of the SP artillery unit was a Maj Sandor (or Andras) Nagyrossy (former AA artilleryman and temporarily teacher at the Kossuth Academy). From talks with SP artillerymen it was learned that the unit was equipped with Soviet SP guns with muzzle brake. (4)

## 3. Nagykanizsa:

a. Border guard battalion: The battalion was quartered in the Karoly Barracks (also known as Dozsa Gyorgy Barracks). The name of a Maj Baracskey was mentioned by one of the border guards. (5)

b. Artillery unit : Two batteries were quartered in the Gabor Aron Barracks. Many officers were seen there. Local residents stated that other artillery troops were quartered in the Karoly Barracks. (6)

c. Infantry unit : An infantry unit, estimated at one battalion, recently moved into the Ferencz-Jozsef Barracks. (7)

d. A new barracks was under construction near the Church of the Friars in the so-called "Lower town". The construction so far of three main buildings was observed. The Szent Miklos Street cantonment was partially occupied by civilians. Some buildings were being removed.

e. A Soviet civilian [redacted] in Nagykanizsa [redacted] was assigned as interpreter to the Soviet officers residing in town. [redacted] estimated the number of Soviet officers, who seldom appeared in public, at 15.

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[redacted] Comment :

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(2)

The 8th Border Guard Bn was reported in Zalaegerszeg up to November 1949. It is therefore assumed that it may be the mentioned Zalaegerszeg border guard battalion.

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The Zalaegerszeg component units of the battalion were probably only headquarters and the training company, increased in strength by recruits inducted in November 1949. The forthcoming transfer of soldiers from Zalaegerszeg to the border seems probable because recruits having completed their basic training are distributed to companies on border guard duty.

(3) Artillery and AAA units quartered in the new barracks were reported [REDACTED] in October 1949.

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(4) No Hungarian troops have been in Tapolca so far.

(5) The Nagykanizsa border guard battalion is probably the 9th Border Guard Bn which was last identified there in October 1949.

(6) The two batteries were reported [REDACTED] in October 1949.

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(7) There are no leads for the identification of the infantry unit. It may be a border guard unit which was transferred from another border region to the Hungarian-Yugoslav border.

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